

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative effects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised. What will remain is piped-in propaganda from syndicated broadcasts and junk journalism, with no chance to air views in opposition to the interests of the few owners who control the content.

The airwaves belong to the public, and American citizens expect them to remain that way. For the FCC to sell out our airwaves to the highest bidder is irresponsible and un-American.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I believe the FCC should keep an open mind and refrain from limiting their final decision to economic interests alone; freedom of the press shouldn't be limited to those wealthy enough to afford multiple television and radio stations and/or newspapers.

Legalization of abjectly corporate-controlled, state-influenced media monopolies, which you euphemistically call media consolidation, is the tool of choice for the totalitarian state, and only promotes one thing: propaganda at the expense of the truth and a once free press. "Media consolidation", or a controlled press, has been previously used in Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia, the Communist Bloc countries of Eastern Europe (before the Soviet empire fell) and is now showcased in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, China, Cuba, and other dictatorships, and is flagrantly

unconstitutional in the United States. If you act merely on the financial interests of a few, ignoring the equally urgent social and civic interests of the majority, you're promoting the very anti-democratic, unpatriotic agenda you accuse America's enemies of promoting. We will depict you as the tyrannous hypocrites you are if you put money before liberty.

Do you want America to remain free, or do you really want this nation to degenerate into a totalitarian state that Hitler, Stalin, and Milosevic would envy? Think about what you're doing and don't be so short-sighted to give megaconglomerate--with government ties--license to feed Americans nonstop lies and propaganda while proponents, namely the greedy, power-mad broadcasting industry, pose this specious argument at best and Big Lie at worst that the Internet brought about media diversity, so the FCC can now let them monopolize the television, radio, and print content.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Very truly yours,

Sue Bazy